Amendments to the Claims

Per Examiner's request, claims 1 and 2 have been amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A connector assembly for connecting optical fibers comprising:

(a) a connector (10) comprising material having shape memory property, comprising a longitudinally extending body (16), said body (16) comprising a first end (18) and a second end (20), and said body(16) having a conduit (22) extending from said first end (18) to said second end (20), and said body (16) comprising a plurality of finger (24) (26) projections that extend longitudinally at each of said first and second ends (18) (20);

(b) a first collar (34) circumferentially coupled to said first end (18) of said connector (10) and a second collar (36) circumferentially coupled to said second end (20)of said connector (10);

(c) a connector housing comprising four quarter portions (38), and defining a connector chamber for receiving said connector when coupled with said collars (34) (36), said quarter portions configured such that two of the quarter portions (38) when assembled comprise a first end (48) and other two of the quarter portions when assembled comprise a second end (50) of said connector housing and further configured to exert tractional force on ~~the~~ said connector (10) when said connector (10) is positioned in the connector chamber, by axial rotation of said first ~~part~~ end (48) relative to said second end (50)of said connector housing, each of said connector housing ends comprising an aperture and pass through conduit between said aperture and said connector chamber; and

(d) a needle (54) capable of insertion through said aperture, pass through conduit and connector conduit, and capable of expansion of the radial diameter of said connector conduit when inserted there through.

2. (currently amended) The use of ~~a~~ said connector assembly of claim 1, for connecting optical fibers comprising:

(a) the insertion of the needle (54) through the aperture, pass through conduit ~~(10)~~ and connector ~~(22)~~ conduit (22) to cause a radial expansion of the diameter of the connector conduit, the opposite axial rotation of the first end (48) ~~(18)~~ of the connector housing ~~assembly~~ relative to the second end (50) ~~20)~~ of the connector housing ~~assembly~~, which by rotational action will exert a tractional force on the connector (10), sufficient to deform the connector (10)according to the elastic properties of the connector (10), render the connector to its amorphous phase by the stress induced on the connector (10) and cause ~~longitudinal~~ radial expansion of the connector diameter thereby;

(b) removal of the needle (54);

(c) the passing of a first optical fiber (12) through one of said apertures, pass through conduit ~~(22)~~ and first end (18) of the connector and passing of a second optical fiber(14) through the other one of said apertures ~~aperture~~ and pass through conduit ~~(22) of said second end~~ and through the second end (20) of the connector to abut the end of the first optical fiber (12); and

(d) the opposite ~~radial~~ axial rotation of the ends of the connector housing to relieve the tractional force on the connector and reduce the diameter of the connector conduit by passing from the amorphous state to the elastic state, securing the optical fibers (12) (14) and abutment of the end of one optical fiber (12) to the other (14).